

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 8, 13, 23 and 24 are amended and claims 29-35 are added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 13, 23 and 24 are amended to correct minor grammatical errors.

Applicants acknowledge the indication on page 6 of the Office Action that claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

I. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,520,568 to White et al. (hereinafter "White"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a dryer comprising an apparatus for opening/closing the door, comprising a pair of holders provided to confront each other in the latch body to hold the hanging portion, and a pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders, respectively.

Instead of a separate pair of holders and a pair of springs, White discloses a cavity 23 formed in a mounting plate 19, the cavity having tabs or projections 24 for securing a single piece resilient means 20. White discloses that the resilient means 20 comprises a substantially U-shaped leaf spring having concave leg portions which bow inwardly to form a restriction 25

which cooperates with an enlarged blunt head portion 26 formed on strike 17. White discloses that by this arrangement, resilient means 20 may releasably capture strike 17 to releasably hold the door 13 in a closed position adjacent the cabinet 12 (Column 3, lines 5-17, Figures 2 and 3).

The Office Action asserts reference numerals 25, 20 to be a pair of holders. However, White discloses that reference numeral 20 is a resilient means and reference numeral 25 is a restriction, i.e., an opening, formed by concave leg portions in the U-shaped leaf spring comprising the resilient means 20. The concave leg portions are formed contiguously in the U-shaped leaf spring. White fails to disclose a pair of holders formed separately from a pair of springs, which are also provided in the rear of the holders.

In the Office Action, it is acknowledged that White fails to disclose a pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders, but asserts that providing a pair of springs to the rear of the holders is an obvious matter of design choice because constructing a formally integral structure in various elements involves routine skill in the art. Applicants respectfully disagree because, the concave leg portions of White are not equivalent to the holders that are separate from the springs, and there is no suggestion in the reference nor the knowledge or skill of one of ordinary skill in the art to have a pair of holders provided to confront each other and a separate pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders, as called for in claim 1.

An integral U-shaped leaf spring having concave leg portions does not suggest being divided into a separate pair of holders and a pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders.

There is absolutely no suggestion in White to have a pair of holders and a separate pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders. It would be against White's teachings to modify a unitary U-shaped leaf spring to create the structures recited in claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that it requires the impermissible use of hindsight, in view of Applicant's own invention, to find a motivation to modify the resilient means 20 as asserted in the Office Action. For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 5-11, 14-25 and 27, which depend from claim 1, are likewise patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,261,628 to Kesling. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 calls for a pair of holders provided to confront each other and a pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders.

Kesling discloses a strike element 20 with the catch assembly 36 wherein the catch assembly 36 consists of a spring clip element 52 having end portions 54 and 56 that are joined by a bent spring segment 58 and contiguous inwardly turned portions 60, 62 that are spring biased toward one another (Column 2, lines 15-33, Figure 2). Kesling discloses that each catch assembly 36 includes component parts that eliminate the need for fastening means for holding

the assembly 36 within the door 16 and is characterized as extremely economical to manufacture and quickly insertable in place in a door or the like (Column 2, lines 15-20).

Kesling, like White, as discussed above, has a single piece spring clip 52 having contiguous inwardly turned portion 60, 62 to catch and hold the strike element 20. The Office Action again acknowledges that Kesling fails to disclose a pair of springs but asserts that providing a pair of springs in the rear of the holders is an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

For all the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to provide a separate and distinct pair of holders, which are provided to confront each other, and a pair of springs provided in the rear of the holders. In fact, it would be against the teachings in Kesling to provide such separate elements as Kesling desires an economical and expeditious manufacturing of a catch assembly 36, which Kesling discloses to be a one piece structure containing a contiguous portions 60, 62 and a bent spring segment 58. Again, it requires the impermissible use of hindsight, in view of Applicant's own invention, to find a motivation to modify the Kesling structure such that it satisfies claim 1.

In view of the above, claim 1 is patentable over the applied reference. Claims 24 and 26, which depend from claim 1, are likewise patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 6 of the Office Action, claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,674,295 to Padovani. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, White fails to disclose or suggest the features and the combination of features recited in claim 1. As Padovani fails to overcome the above discussed deficiencies of White, claim 28 is patentable over the applied references and their combination for at least its dependence upon claim 1, and for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. NEW CLAIMS

Applicants respectfully request the consideration and allowance of claims 29-35. These claims are allowable over the references of record for reasons similar to those provided above in connection with claim 1.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Seth S. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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Amdt. Dated December 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Docket No. K-0568

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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